Yang Kuang, better known to posterity as Yang Ti, is an enigma. It seems probable that he has fared badly at the hands of orthodox Chinese historians, for they have exaggerated his foibles and weaknesses. He was obviously a man of abounding energy, vaulting ambition, and creative imagination. He completed, by means of a vast army of laborers, the chain of canals developed by his father to connect the Yellow River with the Yangtze and extended it southward to Hangchow, in Chekiang. He built, at heavy cost, two walls, portions of that bulwark of frontier fortifications which from at least the time of Ch'in Shih Huang Ti has intermittently played so large a part in the defense program of the Empire along its northern borders—a boundary which nature has left unusually vulnerable. He also erected vast palaces. He made changes in the administrative machinery of the Empire, restoring a type of territorial division which had been abolished earlier in the dynasty and creating a new set of officers—travelling inspectors whose charge it was to report on the conduct of other members of the bureaucracy, thus, presumably, to insure efficiency and prevent sedition. He encouraged schools. He also modified the examinations for the civil service. He is credited with the introduction of what became the examination in the capital leading to the degree of *Chin Shih*—which persisted into the twentieth century. The entire system of examinations, indeed, owed him much of the form which it was to have for over a thousand years. He augmented the imperial library, partly by adding to it existing works and partly by commanding scholars to come to court and each to write on his specialty.

Yang Ti continued the vigorous foreign policy of his father.

In the South, in 605, a punitive expedition was dispatched against the Chams (in the present Indo-China) who had been raiding the Chinese domains. Chinese arms were possibly carried as far as the Gulf of Siam. Yang Ti further extended Chinese influence in what is now the New Dominion, aiding one Turkish prince against another and establishing Chinese sovereignty over some of the oases along the trade routes, among them Turfan. Yet the Turks remained strong.

Still, failures in foreign policy were the immediate cause of the dynasty's downfall. Yang Ti put forth great efforts, costly to his realm, in successive expeditions against a state in what is now the